

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 17 with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment of the present invention, the microorganism is a yeast, preferably *Candida*, more preferably *Candida kefir*, and most preferably *Candida kefir* (*Candida macedoniensis*) IFO 0960 or their functional equivalents, subcultures, mutants and variants thereof. The strain *Candida kefir* (*Candida macedoniensis*) IFO 0960 is publicly available from and was deposited on April 24, 2002 with the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation, Department of Biotechnology, 2-5-8 Kazusakamatari, Kisarazu-shi, Chiba, 292-0818 Japan under Deposit No.: NBRC 0960.